MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

SPRING HILL CHURCH, LAMAR COUNTY, ALA.,

September 5th and 7th, 1880.

Next Session will be held with Spring Hill Baptist Church, Pickens County, Alabama, commencing on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1881, at 9 o'clock A. M.

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MINUTES.

On Saturday, September 4th, 9 o'clock, A. M., the UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met in its Forty-fifth Annual Session with the Spring Hill Baptist Church, Lamar county, Ala. The Moderator, Elder J. C. Foster, called the Association to order by singing, and the session was opened with prayer by Elder T. M. Bailey.

Brethren M. G. Lofton and W. D. Lovett were requested to read the letters from the churches, and the names of delegates enrolled.

On motion, received delegates from Providence church without letter. On motion, Elder J. C. Foster was re-elected Moderator, and H. B. Chappelle, Clerk, by acclamation.

On motion, adopted an Order of Business for the session, and proceedings were held accordingly.

On motion, Elder J. H. Curry was excused from preaching the Introductory Sermon at 11 o'clk, and Dr. E. T. Winkler of Marion, Ala., requested to preach said sermon.

The Association adjourned to hear the introductory sermon, and were entertained by Dr. Winkler from text, Rom. 5: 1, with a very interesting and instructive discourse. Prayer by the Moderator.

After a recess of one hour the Association met, pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder S. Hildreth.

1. Received correspondence from Sunday School Convention.—Brethren S. Hildreth, W. G. Robertson, R. A. Massey, M. G. Lofton, H. B. Chappelle, with a letter.

On motion, received Dr. E. T. Winkler, President of the Home Mission Board and editor of the Alabama Baptist; also, Elder T. M. Bailey, Cor. Sec'y State Mission Board.

On motion, received Elder E. Howell as messenger from New River Association. Yellow Creek Association, brethren William Woods, M. Kenum, with letter and package of minutes. Columbus Association, brethren J. L. Williams, J. M. Dodson, E. Vandever, J. McCrary, W. Cooper, as messengers. All of whom were received and cordially invited to seats.

2. Appointed the following committees:

On Religious Exercises—A. J. Richardson, J. W. Mitchel, W. N. Goodson, J. H. Pate, with pastor and deacons of Spring Hill church.

Correspondence—V. W. Barnett, T. G. Williams, J. T. Hancock.

Education—J. H. Curry, J. J. Taylor, A. C. Ezell, H. A. Pearson.

Documents—J. H. Stinson, S. Hildreth, M. G. Lofton, W. H. Smothers.

Nominations—J. M. Smith, B. E. Whitaker, G. Taylor.

Missions—W. G. Robertson, A. P. Hode, J. G. Thornton, [illegible]

Sabbath School—S. Hildreth, G. J. Tyler, W. Vail.

[illegible]—J. H. Stinson, J. J. Smith.

Deceased Ministers and Deacons--Wm. G. Robertson, A. P. Hodo, J. S. Wooten, J. H. Powell.

Publications--J. P. Lee, J. A. Mitchel, J. T. Hancock.

3. Received report on Sabbath Schools, adopted:

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The progress which has marked the history of Sabbath Schools in the last associational year, is of the most encouraging character. At the last session of the S. S. Convention the committee on documents report an increase of "fifty per cent. within the past year." We now have about 28 schools with about 1000 pupils and teachers. The indications *now* are of such a character that your committee with confidence cherish the hope, that the day is fast approaching when the so much coveted end will be attained—a Sabbath school in every church throughout the land,—when the people, both old and young, male and female, parents and children, will be found assembled at their respective places of worship on the Lord's day, for the study of the word of God. So important is the position assigned to Sabbath school work, that we cannot refrain from insisting upon the importance of furnishing every school with sound Baptist literature.

Dear brethren, we are under the strongest obligation of duty to make full and adequate provision for the training of our children in "the way they should go," raising them up in the nurture of the Lord. Shall we be afraid to teach the whole truth—"rightly dividing the Word" in our Sabbath Schools?

J. H. CURRY, Chm.

On motion, a petitionary letter was received from Temple Hill, a church constituted the past year; said church was received, and by request was assigned to the third District.

4. Reports of District Meetings were read and adopted:

First District—The next annual meeting of this District will be held with Mt. Pleasant Baptist church, Friday before the 4th Sabbath in July, 1881. Introductory sermon by Elder J. A. Mitchel; alternate, Elder I. Hollingsworth. Missionary sermon by Elder S. Hildreth. Query No. 1. How should a church act with a member who pledged himself to support his pastor and then fails to do so? Query No. 2. Are there no means by which we may secure more ministerial aid in our district meetings?

Second District—This District will convene with the Hebron church on Friday before the 3rd Sab. in August, 1881. Introductory sermon by Elder G. M. Lyles. Missionary sermon by Elder J. P. Lee. Query, 1. What is taught in Mark 2: 13? 2. How does Acts 9: 7 harmonize with Acts 22: 9? Essay, 1. Has a minister the right to baptize a subject without the vote of the church?—H. B. Chappelle. Essay, 2. What is taught in the scriptural clause, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire?"—J. H. Stinson. Essay, 3. The nature and importance of church discipline.—J. T. Hancock. Visiting brethren: J. H. Curry, R. A. Massey, W. H. Smothers, C. Richey.

Third District—No report.

Fourth District—Next annual meeting will be held with Bethel Baptist church, Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in August, 1881. Introductory sermon by Elder J. C. Foster; alternate, Elder J. L. Ray. Missionary sermon by Elder J. G. Thornton; alternate, Elder M. P. Smith. Queries for discussion: 1. Is the parable of the ten virgins to be applied exclusively to the church, and does it teach the doctrine of apostacy? Opened by H. Hitt and N. Cobb. 2. Does Peter 3: 15, make it the duty of all who have the Christian hope to study the evidences of christianity? Opened by H. F. Hill and V. W. Barnett. Essay, 1. The effect of fervent prayer. R. H. Foster. 2. The importance of a religious newspaper in each family. E. H. Lamb.

5. On motion, Elder J. C. Foster was excused from preaching the Missionary Sermon to-morrow, and Elder T. M. Bailey requested to preach said sermon.

6. The committee on Religious Exercises reported, amended and

adopted: Preaching on to-morrow at 10 o'clock ... Dr. E. T. Winkler. Missionary sermon at 11 o'clock by El... M. Bailey. At 1 o'clock p. m., preaching by Elder R. A. M...

On motion, adjourned till Monday morning, 9 ... Prayer by brother J. J. Taylor.

SABBATH.

The exercises of this day were conducted in a... th report of committee. The interest and marked atte... ested during the delivery of the three discourses, prove... elt to exclaim "It is good for us to be here." The collec... missions amounted to $22.40.

MONDAY, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.—The Association met pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with prayer by Elder J. G. Thornton.

7. Minutes of Saturday read and approved.

8. Read Constitution and Rules of Decorum.

9. Called the roll and marked absentees.

10. Report of committee on Publications adopted: Your committee recommend, *first*, the Scriptures as a guide and text book for all. We earnestly recommend the "Alabama Baptist," Selma, Ala., edited by Drs. E. T. Winkler and J. J. D. Renfroe, and published by Elder J. L. West. We cheerfully ask the adoption of the following resolutions in regard to this our only State paper, viz:

Resolved, 1. That the *Alabama Baptist* is worthy of the zealous support of the Baptists of the State. Resolved, 2. That every member of the Association pledge himself to use constant and individual effort to extend the patronage of the paper, and that we will not desist until we have presented its claims to every Baptist family in the Association. We also recommend "Kind Words," and "Foreign Mission Journal," both published by the Southern Baptist Convention—the former at Macon, Ga., the latter at Richmond, Va.

J. P. LEE, Chm.

11. Report of committee on Missions was read, also report of Elder G. M. Lyles, Missionary in the Association, as follows:

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

It is to be regretted that, notwithstanding the fact we call ourselves missionary Baptists, the masses of our people feel but little interest in the missionary enterprise. We believe that this indifference is largely owing to the want of information on the subject. Wherever the pastors post themselves and regularly communicate missionary intelligence to their people, an interest is manifested and prayers and alms go up together before God for a memorial. A pastor whose own heart is imbued with the missionary spirit will soon communicate a like spirit to his people.

In the foreign field we have 17 missionaries who are laboring in China, Italy, Africa and Brazil. In China we have 4 brethren and 8 sisters, with 19 native assistants; in Italy we have Dr. G. B. Taylor and wife, with 9 native assistants; in Africa we have Bro. David and wife, and M. L. Stone, a colored brother; in Brazil we have 2 churches, both under the care of Brother Justice. There were 90 baptized by these missionaries last year. The re-

ceipts of the Board were $50,000, of this amount Alabama Baptists gave only $1,244.00. Our Home Board had last year 33 missionaries in the field, including Dr. Hartwell, who is at work amongst the Chinese in California. These missionaries preached 2580 sermons, baptized 275 people, made 2731 religious visits and traveled 48,338 miles. The receipts of the Board were about $16,000; of this amount Alabama, in whose bounds the Board is located, contributed only $1.276. Our State Mission Board had 20 missionaries in the field last year, who preached 2377 sermons, baptized 164 people, organized 13 churches, 96 Sunday schools and 73 prayer-meetings; preached 425 times in destitute places, secured 310 subscribers to the "Alabama Baptist," and traveled 31,734 miles.

These missions demand a more generous support at the hands of the 75,000 Baptists of Alabama. The State Board, to which has been intrusted by our Convention the whole subject of Missions, asks for the Foreign Board $2,000 for the Home Board $4,000, and for the State Board $8,000—making a total of only $14,000 for missions from the entire denomination, during the year. Your committee prayerfully hope that the churches of this Association will cheerfully contribute their full share of this amount. Brethren, if we would have prosperity in our churches, we must take a deeper interest in the extension of our Redeemer's Kingdom at home and abroad.

Respectfully submitted, S. HILDRETH, Chm.

REPORT OF STATE EVANGELIST.

To the Union Association: Under appointment of the State Mission Board, I began work in the district assigned me September 10th, 1879, and submit the following report: I have preached 228 sermons, delivered 150 addresses, aided in constituting 1 church and 9 Sabbath schools, organized 16 prayer-meetings, baptized 15, in connection with my labors 20, number of churches visited 35, preached at 4 other stations, religious visits 200, district meetings attended 4, obtained 10 subscribers to the "Alabama Baptist." Number of miles traveled 1830, assisted in ordaining 7 deacons, prayers offered 180. I found 2 churches without pastors. I have received for my work $191.00. I am glad to say that I have been well received, and believe my labors have been acceptable and abundantly blessed, and that seed has been sown that will bring forth good fruit. The harvest is great, the laborers are few—let us pray the Lord to send more laborers into the harvest. I have endeavored to labor in those sections where the most good could be accomplished. The greater portion of my work has been within the bounds of the Union Association.

Bro. Bailey, Sec'y of the State Board, visited us in April and remained about two weeks greatly aiding me in the work, for which he has the gratitude of our people. I believe the work ought to be continued. May God bless the labors of his people. Fraternally submitted,

G. M. LYLES, District Evangelist.

12. After the adoption of report on Missions, the following sums from the churches were suggested as being sufficient for all benevolent work. And on being presented to the delegates of the various churches, the following result was obtained:

Bethlehem $12, A P Woolbright $5 and try to raise balance; Liberty $22, pay all they can; Mt. Pleasant $22—no pledge; Fellowship $14, A P Hodo pledged; Corinth $32—pay all they can; Spring Hill $27—pay all they can; Pleasant Grove $17, pledged full amount; Providence $12, A J Richardson $4, Gid L Neal balance; New Arbor Spring $12, pledged full amount; So. Carolina $22—pay all they can; Mineral Spring $22—pledged $20.00; Oak Ridge $20—pledged full amount; Spring Hill, P.. $14—pledged $18; Big Creek $30—H B Chappelle $10, W O Kelsey $5; Hebron $17—pay all they can; Cross Roads $12—pledged full amount; Pickensville $17—no pledge; Carrollton $42—pledged full amount; Ebenezer $14—pledged $5; Antioch $14—no pledge; Unity $32—pay all they can; Enon $27—pledged full am't; Mt. Zion $17—no pledge; Prairie $22—G Taylor $5, J J Taylor $5; Shiloh $12—no pledge; Chalcedony $22—J H M Anders $5; Beulah $32—no plg.; Bethel $27—pay all they can; New Hope $27—pledged full amount; Zion

$17—pay all they can; Temple Hill $5—pledged; Grant's Creek $42—pledged full amount; Cash $1, paid W G Robertson.

13. On motion, the following resolution was read and adopted: Resolved, That we, the ministers and members of the Union Baptist Association, will as early as practicable present to our respective churches the claims of Foreign, Home, Indian and State missions upon us, and take up a collection for these respective objects and forward the same to the Board at Marion, Ala.

14. Report of committee on Finance, adopted:

Received from the churches for				Minutes	$68.60
"	"	"	"	Association	27.70
"	"	"	"	State Mission	86.05
"	"	"	"	Home and Indian Missions	8.60
"	"	"	"	Foreign Missions	16.20
"	"	"	"	S. S. Work	3.25
Collected on Sabbath					22.40
					$232.80

J. H. STINSON, Chm.

15. On motion, the following resolution was adopted: Resolved, That we recommend to our brethren as convenient periods for collections to be sent to the State Mission Board, viz: Ministerial Education, 1st meeting in October; State Missions, 1st meeting in December; Home Missions, 1st meeting in Feb., and Foreign Missions, 1st meeting in April.

On motion, adjourned until 2 o'clock p. m. Prayer by Dr. E. T. Winkler.

Monday afternoon.—The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder R. A. Massey.

16. On motion, Elder L. J. Hilburn was received as messenger from Columbus Association.

17. On motion, brethren M. L. Stansel, L. M. Stone, W. G. Robertson, U. E. Allen, C. Richey, J. R. Long and I. M. Noland were appointed as the Executive Committee for the ensuing associational year, and the direction of all missionary operations in the Association be referred to said committee, and the secretary of the State Mission Board.

18. Report of Executive Committee for past year, adopted:

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your committee beg leave to report that they have, in connection with the State Board, appointed Elder G. M. Lyles district evangelist for the district composing the Union and Yellow Creek Associations. As the evangelist is required to make his reports to the State Board, you are therefore referred to his report for the particulars pertaining to the work of State missions within our bounds. Fraternally submitted, W. G. ROBERTSON, Chm.

19. Circular Letter read and adopted.

20. Report of committee on Education, amended and adopted:

Your committee on Education beg leave to report that they deem it unnecessary to present arguments in favor of education. It is conceded by all to be of primary importance, and to be the best legacy that can be bequeathed by parents to their children. We recommend to the brethren of our Association to send their sons and daughters to the best schools within their reach, and give them such education as their means will allow. We would recommend Howard College and the Judson Female Institute, at Marion,

Ala., as suitable places to obtain a classical education, and we would respectfully recommend the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as the most suitable place for the training of young men to the work of the ministry.

Respectfully submitted, R. A. MASSEY, Chm.

On motion, Resolved, That $25.00 be paid Elder J. G. Thornton to purchase a library, and that Elder T. M. Bailey select the same. This amount was raised and paid Elder T. M. Bailey.

On motion, Resolved, That this Association raise $225, to be equally divided between V. W. Barnett and J. J. Taylor, and loaned to them to assist in attending Howard College the ensuing year.

21. Committee on Documents reported, adopted: The Committee on Documents report one hundred and twenty-nine accessions by baptism; four young brethren have been licensed by their respective churches, to-wit: J. J. Taylor, of Prairie, M. G. Lofton, of Unity, Henry Hitt and Virgil W. Barnett, of New Hope. We notice a lengthy communication from the Sabbath School Convention, from which we learn that the Sabbath school work in numbers and interest has increased fifty per cent. during the past year, the co-operation and assistance of your body is earnestly solicited. We recommend that all funds of the Association not otherwise appropriated be turned over to Bro. W. G. Robertson, the secretary and treasurer of said Convention. Respectfully submitted,

J. H. STINSON, Chm.

22. Report of Committee on Nominations, adopted: The next Introductory Sermon by Elder J. G. Thornton; alternate, Elder J. A. Mitchel. Annual Missionary Sermon by Elder J. C. Foster; alternate, Elder J. H. Curry. The next Circular Letter to be written by brother J. H. Stinson, subject: We believe in the Covenant of Redemption and Salvation by Grace entered into by the Sacred Three in behalf of the elect, on whom grace and glory were settled forever in Christ their covenant head. J. M. SMITH, Chm.

23. Report of committee on Correspondence adopted.

24. Returned correspondence to other Associations:

To the Columbus—To convene with the Montgomery church, 5 miles West of Mayhew, Miss., Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in September, 1880. J. T. Hancock.

To the Tuscaloosa—To convene with the Bethany church, 14 miles West of Tuskaloosa, Friday before 3rd Sabbath in September, 1880. R. A. Massey, J. A. Mitchel, James Mills, Jr., J. W. Mitchel.

To the Sabbath School Convention—To convene with the Forest church, Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in July, 1881. J. C. Foster, R. H. Foster, H. B. Chappelle.

To the Yellow Creek—To convene with Bethabara church, Lamar county, Ala., on Friday before 1st Sabbath in October, 1880. Wm. McCullough, R. A. Massey, Wm. Vail, J. P. Lee, G. M. Lyles.

To the New River—To convene with the Concord church, Fayette county, Ala., on Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in October, 1880. E J Daffin, G M Lyles, L P Baker.

To the Baptist State Convention—To convene at Troy, Pike county, Ala., Wednesday before the 3rd Sabbath in July, 1881. R A Massey, J C Foster,

R H Foster, J H Curry, L M Stone, W G Robertson, J G Thornton, M L Stansel, G M Lyles, J A Mitchel, J J Taylor, C Richey, V W Barnett.

25. Report of committee on Deceased Deacons, adopted:

REPORT ON DECEASED DEACONS.

Your committee submit the following: We are unable to write as complete a report as we think should be written, on account of the want of sufficient data.

The hand of the Lord has fallen heavily upon the Deacons during the past year. Five of these faithful servants of Christ have been taken to their final rest. Deacon HILIARY RICHARDSON was a member of Mt. Zion church.—We are informed that brother Richardson was a faithful deacon and discharged the duties of his office well. He died March 8th, 1880.

Deacon EZEKIEL SANDERS was for many years a member of Liberty church. He died Feb. 23, 1880. Thus has passed away another of the old landmarks.

Deacon JAMES M. ALLEN was a member of South Carolina church. He was born August 12th, 1827, in Pickens county, Ala., made a profession of faith in Christ in 1851, united with the church in 1869, was ordained deacon in 1871, and died February 3rd, 1880. His labors on earth are ended and he has entered upon the realities of that unknown world, and we doubt not he is realizing the peace of the Paradise of God.

Deacon WILLIAM M. STAPP, a member of Unity church, was born Nov. 30th, 1802, professed the religion of our Saviour and joined the church at Unity, September, 1838, ordained deacon in 1844, and died Aug. 5th, 1880. He used the office well and purchased to himself a good degree and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Deacon PARKS E. BALL, a member of Enon church, was born January 7th, 1803, joined the church (Enon) in 1828, was baptized by Elder Charles Stewart, was ordained deacon ——, the duties of which he faithfully discharged to the time of his death, April 2nd, 1880. In the language of the church committee, In the death of our dear brother we have lost a useful and exemplary member, whose long life beautifully illustrated the purity of his love for Jesus. Fraternally submitted, W. G. ROBERTSON, Chm.

26. Appointed the next session of the Association to be held with Spring Hill church, Pickens county, Ala., commencing on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1881, at 9 o'clock A. M.

On motion, the Clerk was instructed to superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes, pay over the funds to their respective Boards, and retain out of Association funds $25.00 for his services; and that all funds unappropriated and remaining in his hands be turned over to the Sunday School Convention for the use of Sabbath Schools.

27. Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the members of Spring Hill church and community for the kindness and hospitality extended to the delegates and visitors during its session.

On motion, the thanks of the Association was extended to Dr. E. T. Winkler and Elder T. M. Bailey for their presence and assistance rendered the body during the session.

On motion, adjourned. After singing and extending the parting hand, prayer was offered by Elder J. P. Lee.

H. B. CHAPPELLE, Clerk. J. C. FOSTER, Moderator.

NOTE.—During the session of the Association services were conducted at the arbor, by Elders J. H. Curry and J. L. Hilburn.

Union Baptist Association.

	CHURCHES.	DELEGATES. Absentees marked with a star, †	STATISTICS. Baptized	Rec'd by Letter	Dis'd by Let	Restored	Excluded	Deceased	White Males	White Females	Total Whites	CONTRIBUTIONS. Minutes	Association	Mission	Pd. Eld. Lyles, prev's to Ass'n	Aggregate Amount.	Mon'ly Meet's	PASTORS.	CHURCH CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.
First Dis.	Bethlehem,	A. P. Woolbright, J. P. Lowe,† J. Bradley†.		1					10	20	30	1,50				1 50	3	M. Keenum,	j. Bradley Coldfire, Ala.
	Liberty,	G.W.C.Doughiy, A.J. Loper, H. P. Funderburk	5	5		2	1	13	50	69	119	1,75	,75	,80		3.30	2	J.A.Mitchel,	J.W.Harris, Reform. Ala.
	Mt. Pleasant,	H Strickland, I. Lancaster, C. Hollingsworth,	8	2	3	1		2	19	52	71	2,50	,50	5.00		8,00	3	L. I. Hillburn,	J. M. Parker, Gordo, Ala.
	Fellowship,	A. P. Hodo, S.A.Comerford.* J. B. Hodo*.		2		1			11	16	27	1,50	1,00			2.50	1	J. M. Chism,	P.H.Howard, Reform, "
	Corinth,	Eld. J A Mitchel, J. W. Mitchel, F. R. Gallant,	3		1	1	1		25	49	84	2,50	,75		5 70	8.95	4	J.A. Mitchel,	J.A.Mitchel, Sipsy T'pike
	Spring Hill, L.	J. S. Wooten,* W. T. Walker, D. B. Robertson,	5	2	4	1		1	36	38	74	2,00	1,00			3.00	2	J. S. Wooten.	J. D. walker, Saluda Ala.
	Pleasant Grove	W. McCollough, W. H. Smothers, Wm. Vail,	1	1			1		18	45	63	1,10	1,00			2.10	4	J. S. Wooten.	Wm. Vail, Luxpalila Ala.
	Providence,	A. J. Richardson, S. J Spruill, W. I. Duncan.																	
Second Dis.	Aarbor Spring.	A. C. Richardson, J. T. Keating,* A. J. Bonner*		3	5	1	1		18	15	25	2,00	1,50	1.50		3.00	1	S. Hildreth,	A. C. Richardson, Reform.
	SouthCarolina,	J. T. Hancock, J. M. Gentry, W. C. Hancock.			1	1		1	22	37	59	1,75	,25			2.00	4	J. P. Lee,	F P.Adams Stafford, Ala.
	Mineral Spring	Eld. G.M.Lyles, E.J.Daffin, J.J. Funderburk.	6						22	54	76	3,50	,50		5.40	9.40	1	J. A. Mitchel,	E J Daffin, Providence, Ala
	Oak Ridge,	Eld. J. P. Lee, J. W. C. Bell. R. J. Burgin*.						1	13	22	35	3,00	1,00			4.00	3	J. P. Lee,	H L Williams, Lineb'g, Ala
	Spring Hill, P.	T. L. Land, J. H. Stinson,† J. P. Stansel,†.	1	1					8	13	21	1,50	1,00		8.00	10.50	4	J. P. Lee,	J H Stinson, Pick'ville,
	Hebron,	B E Whitaker, J.B.Shepherd,* H. A. Pearson.						1	8	38	46	2,00	1,00			3.00	3	H.B.Chappelle	J. A. Pearson, Carrollton,
	Big Creek,	Eld. H. B. Chappelle. W. O. Kelsey. S. Mullins	10	11	2		4	1	33	76	109	3,00	1.50			4.50	2	H.B.Chappelle	I. M. Noland, "
	Cross Roads,	J. F. Reteer, G. W. Mullins, J. M. Land*.	7	2	2	2			14	15	30	1,75	,50			2.25	1	J. M. Land,	Jo M. Land, Carrolltan.
	Pickensville,	Eld. J. H. Curry, W. D. Lovett, J. R. Long.*.			1			1	12	22	34	2,00	,50			2.50	1	J. H. Curry,	M. W. Curry, Pickensville
	Carrollton,	W. G. Robertson, T. G. Williams, A. C. Ezell.	1		3				20	43	63	2,50	2,50			5.00	4	j. H. Curry,	L M Stone, Carrollton, Ala.
	Ebenezer,	Eld. S. Hildreth, J. S. Wood, J. L. Stucky*.		1			1		12	20	32	2,00	,50		2.65	5.10	3	S. Hildreth,	C. W Free, "
Third Dis.	Antioch,	H. Easterling,* Wm. Bridges,* J. N. Gazaway		2	5				8	11	19	1,00	,50			1.50	2	I.Hollinsworth	W. Bridges, Carrolton,
	Temple Hill,	J. D. Hamner, A. Pate, F. M. Walker.							7	17	24	1,50	,50		1.75	3.75	4	S. Hildreth,	J. D. Hamner, Templ, Aia,
	Unity,	J. E. Corder* M G Lofton,* W. N. Goodson.	1	1	6			2	39	62	101	3,00	2,00			5.00	1	R. A. Massey,	J W Hanson, Olney, Ala.
	Enon,	C. Richey, E P Ezell,* P O Williams*.	10	1	1			4	24	39	63	2,00	1,00			3.00	3	H. Curry,	J. D. Stapp, Garden, "
	Mount Zion,	Eld. R.A.Massey, J. B. Carlisle,* L. P. Baker,	2		7			1	23	25	48	2,00	1,00		10.00	13.00	3	R.A.Massey	L. P. Baker, Bethany. Ala
	Prairie	J J Taylor, W J Porter, W S Parker.		4	2			1	17	20	37	2,00	,50	3.70	7 00	13.20	2	J. E. white,	
	Forest,	J L Marquis, Elder J G Thornton, L C Teer.	17	7	6	1		1	35	50	85	3,00	1,00	4.00		8.00	3	J. G. Thornton	J. Upchurch, Union, Ala.
	Shiloh,	George Levell,* A P Smith,*.	1				1		9	19	28	3,00				3.00	1	J. L. Ray	A.P.Smith, Ple's'nt, Grove
Fourth Dis.	Chalcedony,	Eld. J H M Anders, G T Hulsey,* J H Powell,	12	2	27	1	1		35	28	63	3,00				3.00	3	J H M Anders,	S. S. Hulsey, Romulus,
	Beulah,	Eld. M P Smith,† E H Lamb,† J T Smith*.					1		23	67	90	3,50	1,50	8.80		13.80	1	M. P. Smith,	E H Lamb, Union Ala.
	Bethel,	Eld. J L Ray,* J W Phillips,* R S Thornton.	14	1	2	1	1	3	44	56	100	3,00	1,20			4.20	2	R.A.Massey	J. w. Phillips, Hickman.
	New Hope,	J M Smith, Henry Ball, Virgil Barnett	3	8	3			3	38	26	64	3,00	1,00			4.00	4	J. C. Foster.	H. Ball, Romulous, Ala.
	Zion,	J H Pate, James Shirley,* Stephen Elledge.	1	3	3	1		1	14	32	46	1,50	,50			2.00	2	J. L. Ray	J. P. Hatter, Raleigh, Ala.
	Grant's Creek	Eld. J C Foster, R H Foster,* J. Manly Foster,	20	2	6	4	2		40	66	106	4,00	1,00			5.00	1	J. C. Foster.	A. F. Prince, Foster's, "
			123	67	101	15	16	23	678	1144	1822	71.35	27,45	23,90	40,45	163.15			

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who, on producing their credentials, shall be entitled to seats.

2. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known by the name of "THE UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION:" which shall have the privilege of engaging in benevolent operations, for the purpose of advancing the Redeemer's Kingdom, and the furtherance of Christ's cause on earth—in this the churches and individual members are left free; and the giving or withholding shall not be a bar to fellowship.

3. The Association shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union, nor infringe any of their internal rights; but shall merely be considered an advisory council, in all matters relating to their internal concerns: nevertheless, it becomes necessary, in some cases, to have a uniform rule of procedure, viz: If one church commit an offense against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction: if she fail of success, she shall call in the aid of two or more churches in our union, to assist in laboring for satisfaction, and if final satisfaction, in the opinion of the helps thus called, be not obtained, the agrieved may bring the case before the Association, which shall be taken up and decided upon according to its merits. If a serious difference should arise in an individual church, which, upon due labor, cannot be reconciled, she shall call in aid from two or more sister churches, to assist in the work, and if a reconciliation be not effected, the helps so called, or the church may bring the case before the Association, to be acted upon according to its merits; but the Association shall take no notice of any case of the above kind, unless a due course of procedure shall have been previously pursued according to the economy of the church discipline as found in the Scriptures of the New Testament.

4. The Association shall have the power to exclude any church from her union who shall violate the Constitution, or shall depart from the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

5. Each church in our union shall send to every annual session of the Association, written communications, specifying the names of their delegates, their number in fellowship, males and females, the number baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excommunicated, restored, or deceased since the last session, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

6. Every church in this union shall be entitled to three delegates. Should any church fail to represent herself, she shall state her reasons in her next letter to the Association.

7. New churches and churches dismissed from other Associations may be admitted into our union, by delegates bearing petitionary letters. If upon due examination they be found orderly and orthodox, the Moderator shall manifest their reception by giving their delegates the right hand of christian fellowship.

8. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by regular and proper rules of decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend, according to her own views.

9. At every meeting of the Association, a Moderator shall be appointed by, and from the delegates presents, whose duty it shall be to see that the rules are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A Clerk shall also be appointed in like manner, whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of the proceedings. The Clerk shall be treasurer, ex-officio, of this union.

10. The Association shall furnish the churches of our union with the minutes of every session.

11. Every query sent by a particular church, must be included in her letter, certifying that she has endeavored to reconcile it, but failed. In such a case the Association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of a majority shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall be entered on the minutes.

12. Queries which immediately concern the union, or state of the churches

at large, sent by a particular church, or introduced by a proper motion, shall be taken up and decided as soon as practicable.

13. Any church in our union, having a preacher whom she deems worthy of ordination, shall call a presbytery of ministers from sister churches to officiate in the work; all presbyteries in the ordaining of ministers or deacons, and in the constituting of churches, shall be governed by the Articles of Faith adopted by this Association.

14. The Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches; all moneys thus contributed, shall be transmitted from the churches, by their delegrtes, and paid over to the committee on finance; which committee shall be annually apppointed, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge all moneys sent to the Association, dispose of the same agreeably to order, and make a fair and circumstantial report.

15. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of the printed Minutes of every session.

16. The Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all the business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

17. This Association shall correspond with such other Associations as may be agreed on while in session.

18. The Association shall, in all cases (except to amend the Constitution,) be governed by a majority of the members present.

19. The minutes of the Association shall be read, and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the session rises.

20. The Association shall, at each session, appoint one of her members to preach an Introductory Sermon at her next session; also, one or more to preach upon subjects of Benevolence, as she may think proper; and one to prepare a Circular Letter.

21. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any session of the Association when two-thirds of her members present shall deem it necessary.

H. B. CHAPPELLE, in account with the Union Baptist Association.

DR.

To cash received from Committee on Finance	$232.80
" " " Third District	5.05
	$237.85

CR.

By cash paid T. M. Bailey for State Missions	$86.05
" " " " Home "	19.80
" " " " Foreign "	27.40
" " " " Third District	5.05
" " for printing Minutes	68.60
" " W. G. Robert-on for Sabbath Schools	5.95
By cash retained for services as Clerk	25.00
	$237.85

NOTICE TO CLERKS OF CHURCHES.

You are requested to let your letters to the Association conform, as near as possible, to the following form:

The Baptist Church at .....:

To the Union Baptist Association—Christian Greeting:

We have chosen brethren....., and.....alternate, to represent us in your body.

STATISTICS.

Baptized.....; Received by Letter.....: Restored.....; Dismissed by Letter .....: Excluded.....; Died.....: Males.....; Females.....: Total.....

CONTRIBUTIONS.

Foreign Missions, $.....; Home Mis.. $.....; State Missions, $.. ..: Sabbath School Work, $.....; Ministerial Education, $.....; Minutes, $.....; Associational purposes, $.....; Total, $.....; Regular meetings.....Sabbath; Pastor, Elder..... We have.....Sunday school, with.....teachers and scholars. Our prayer-meeting every..... Post office.....

(Here add any items that will be of interest to the Association.)

By order of the Church, ...day of.....188 .

....., Clerk. ....., Moderator.

CIRCULAR LETTER;

WRITTEN BY WILLIAM G. ROBERTSON.

WE BELIEVE THAT MAN IS UTTERLY UNABLE, BY HIS OWN FREE WILL AND ABILITY, TO RECOVER HIMSELF FROM THE FALLEN STATE IN WHICH HE IS BY NATURE.—*Fourth Article of Faith.*

There is a large class of people in the world who deny this important doctrine, either because of ignorance or prejudice. Human nature is averse to any truth that condemns the heart as depraved, deceitful, corrupt and desperately wicked, or that teaches that man cannot by some commendable acts, through the exercise of his own volition, bring about such a high state of morals and excellence of character by which God is bound to recognize his perfection and bestow upon him his grace. If he prays thrice daily, fasts twice every week, gives tithes of all he possesses, he is, therefore, not as other men, but is entitled to respectful consideration from God. They utterly ignore the true moral character and condition of mankind, and base their acceptance and salvation upon a false notion of the mercy and goodness of God.

In the discussion of this subject we should consider first, the moral character and condition of man. Man, originally, was in a state of purity, having been created in the image of God, and endowed with faculties capable of doing evil, or continuing in that state, thus determining his future happiness or woe. In the exercise of these faculties he chose to disregard and violate the positive injunction: In the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die, and thus fell from that high estate, incurring the displeasure and wrath of his Creator, and with shame and confusion fled from his presence. Thus the seeds of sin and death were implanted in the human heart, and consequent aversion to God and his holiness. Of the universal depravity, corruption and guilt of man the scriptures contain abundant proof. The ordinary reader of the Bible, who has not given this subject a careful investigation, would be astonished at the volume of testimony going to establish this article of our faith. I shall, without referring to the particular chapter or verse, give the most prominent proof texts on this subject.—The wickedness of man was great in the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually; the earth was corrupt before God; and the earth was filled with violence,—all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth,—there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God,—there is none that doeth good, no not one. By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

The first promise after the fall clearly enunciates the doctrine of the utter helplessness of man. When our first parents were arraigned to receive the sentence of banishment from the presence of their Maker, and the curse was pronounced against the enemy of their souls, the promise of a Saviour was given.—I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head and thou shall bruise his heel. The doctrine of the inability of man to restore himself to the primeval state had its origin before the promise of salvation.

When the sacred Three entered into council and covenant to redeem man, his power was not taken into consideration, for he had none—he had forfeited all claim, all right to the favor and mercy of God,—so it was determined that man's salvation should be alone of grace.

That venerable father in Israel, Dr. Dagg, has well said: "The original defect in the impulse of conscience renders the influence of the Holy Spirit necessary. If the original impulse of conscience were sufficiently strong to control our lower impulses, and if we obeyed it through life, we should live in perfect virtue. The discoveries of natural and revealed religion would be

welcomed, and all our power would be given to the service of God. But we begin life with an advantage in favor of the lower impulses, and this advantage the power of habit is ever increasing. Conscience cannot of itself regain its lost dominion, and natural religion cannot give the needed aid. The Old Testament tried its power without success, and the New Testament acknowledges its impotence if not accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. The original defect in the impulse of conscience leaves men under the dominion of the lower propensities, that is, renders them carnal; and to remedy this defect they need a change, which is appropriately called new birth, new creation, etc. To effect this change divine power is needed." The carnal mind is enmity against God; it is not subject to his law, neither indeed can be. The scriptures declare that he is dead in trespasses and sins. Nothing but that power which created out of nothing and raises the dead to life again, can quicken the dead faculties of the soul and raise it up to newness of life. It is God that worketh in us to will and to do of his good pleasure.

God, in his great mercy and goodness, devised a plan by which man can be restored to his favor through Jesus his only begotten. The life, sufferings, death and resurrection of Jesus were absolutely essential to satisfy a violated law and save the soul, with an incorruptible inheritance in heaven. It is, therefore, not to be supposed for a moment that God recognizes in man the power or ability to recover himself; for, if he should, he would utterly ignore the work of his dear Son and set at naught the sacrifice he made for the sins of the world, and thus rob him of the glory of the salvation of sinners.—Even a casual reader of the scriptures and observer of the natural tendency of the human heart to evil, and aversion to holiness and love of God, could not conscientiously arrive at any other conclusion. It is because of unbelief, unwillingness and pride, and corruption of the heart that causes such aversion to this doctrine. He would destroy the plan of salvation and be willing to risk the destiny of his soul, his hope of heaven, that he might have some vehicle of his own deceitful imagination.

There can be no doubt of the truth of this doctrine. It is as surely taught as the Bible is true, and is the prime procuring cause of the plan of salvation itself. It was the deplorable and utter helplessness of his creatures and for purposes of his own glory, that moved God to compassion and grace.

That which is wrought in man, by which he is made a new creature, requires nothing less than the power of Jehovah; for, it is as much impossible for a dead body to quicken and breathe the breath of life again, as for a sinner who is dead in trespasses and sins, to renew himself and beget a spirit of hungering and thirsting after righteousness. God gave his Son to suffer and die, who his ownself bear our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins should live unto righteousness. He has revealed unto us his will and has sent His Spirit into the world, to reprove the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment. There is no evidence of our acceptance and that God abides with us, except by the spirit which he hath given us. No man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost. Ye must be born again, of the Spirit, from above. The work of regeneration is that quickening power by which the sinner is enabled to see his true condition and flee from the wrath of God. In the work of the new birth the sinner is, of course, passive, does nothing. It is God, rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, who hath quickened us together with Christ. By grace ye are saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. And you hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

The scriptures teach that man is utterly unable, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

SYNOPSIS

OF THE

TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

OF THE

UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The Twelfth Annual Session of the Sunday School Convention of the Union Baptist Association was held with the church at Enon, ten miles southwest of Carrollton, Pickens county, Ala., Friday, Saturday and Sabbath, July 16th, 17th and 18th, 1880. The Introductory Sermon was preached Friday, 11 a. m., by Elder J. G. Thornton. Twenty-two Sabbath-schools and two churches were represented. The Convention was organized by the re-election of Elder S. Hildreth, President, and W. G. Robertson, Secretary and Treasurer.

Query No. 1. What are the best means to induce parents to take more interest in the Sabbath-school work? was discussed at considerable length, but, considering the interest manifested in the discussion, and the importance of the subject, the dicussion was suspended and the query referred to the next session of the Convention.

The annual missionary sermon was delivered Saturday, 11 a. m., by Elder S. Hildreth. A collection was taken up, amounting to $13.00 cash, and $6.95 pledges, for the prosecution of benevolent work in our bounds.

Query No. 2. Are Sabbath-schools a necessity? was taken up, and it was decided that, so far as we are concerned, the day is past for the discussion of such a subject. The query was laid on the table.

Query No. 3. Is it right to give other than religious instruction in Sabbath-schools? After a warm discussion of the subject, for and against, the following answer was adopted: It is right so far as it is necessary in explanation of many things taught in the Bible that cannot otherwise be explained.

The essay by Bro. J. P. Barnett—The qualifications and duties of a Sabbath-school Superintendent—was read and adopted.

Brother W. S. Coleman was granted permission to deliver his essay orally—What are the best means of promoting a more general interest in the Sabbath-school work? The Convention was greatly edified in the discussion of the subject.

The committee on documents gave an encouraging report of the condition of the Convention. There has been a large increase, fifty per cent, within the past year. The committee on nominations reported:—Next introductory sermon by Elder Jos. P. Lee; alternate, J. L. Ray; missionary sermon by Elder J. H. Curry; alternate, Elder J. C. Foster.

The following queries were adopted for discussion at the next session: 1st. Is it the indispensable duty of a church member to attend Sabbath-schools? 2d. For what is a believer crowned? 3d. Ought Sabbath-schools to have visiting committees?

Essays: 1st. The power and influence of family prayer, by C. Richey; 2d. Sabbath-schools, by John H. Stinson; 3r. The benefits received by churches from Sabbath-schools, by W. G. Robertson.

The superintendent of benevolent work reported, that he had received from various sources $36.35; and that he had expended $35.45, in supplying destitute schools with books and *Kind Words;* that this is the mainspring of the great interest and prosperity in the glorious Sabbath-school work, and recommended a vigorous prosecution of the work in the future; which was unanimously adopted. About fifty-five dollars, thirty-three cash, and balance pledges, was raised to carry on the Sunday-school work in our bounds.

The Bible is our recognized and never failing light, and in addition thereto *Kind Words* was heartily recommended, and also such other good religious literature as any individual school may decide to adopt.

The next session of the Convention will be held with the church at Forest, commencing Friday before the 3d Sabbath in July, 1881.

Resolved, That we are glad and rejoice, and feel greatly encouraged, because of the increased prosperity in the Sabbath-school work, and humbly return thanks to our Heavenly Father for all his benefits, and invoke Divine aid in the future work of the Convention.

More unanimity and harmony never characterized the deliberations of any body than were manifested during the entire session of the Convention. All felt that it was good to be there. After singing and extending the parting hand, and prayer, the Convention adjourned. Thus closed the grandest session of the Convention.

W. G. Robertson, Sec'y. S. Hildreth, President.

NAMES OF BAPTIST MINISTERS

IN THIS ASSOCIATION, WITH THEIR POST OFFICES.

R. B. Wilkins	Reform, Pickens County, Ala.
I. Hollingsworth	Carrollton, " " "
S. Hildreth	" " " "
F. M. Walker*	" " " "
H. B. Chappelle	" " " "
J. D. Hamner*	" " " "
G. M. Lyles	Beard's, " " "
J. S. Wooten	Providence, " " "
J. H. Curry	Pickensville, " " "
J. M. Land	" " " "
J. P. Lee	" " " "
M. G. Lofton*	Olney, " " "
R. A. Massey	Hickman, Tuskaloosa Co., Ala.
J. L. Ray	" " " "
M. P. Smith	Union, Greene County, "
J. G. Thornton	" " " "
J. A. Mitchell	Sipsey Turnpike, Tuska. Co., "
J. C. Foster	Foster's, Tuskaloosa Co., Ala.
J. H. M. Anders	Romulus, " " "
V. W. Barnett*	" " " "
Henry Hitt*	" " " "
J. H. Taylor*	Pleasant Ridge, Greene Co., Ala.

Ordained Ministers, - - - - - -	16
Licentiates* - - - - - - -	6